

## **EXHIBIT 5**



National Institute of Standards and Technology  
100 Bureau Dr., Room A1134  
Gaithersburg, MD 20899

May 12, 2025

Dr. Alan Garber  
Office of the President  
Harvard University  
Massachusetts Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dr. Garber:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the U.S. Department of Commerce (the “Department”) will cease funding for Award Number 70NANB24H116, “Interactive interface for machine learning-guided protein library design”, through the National Institute of Standards and Technology (“NIST”), pursuant to Section 200.340 of the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (2 C.F.R. Part 200), which govern this award of Federal financial assistance. The applicable version of 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(a)(4) permits termination “[b]y the Federal agency or pass-through entity pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Federal award, including, to the extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.”

As part of efforts to streamline and reduce the cost and size of the Federal Government, the Department is reprioritizing funding and staff to support only those activities directly related to its current programmatic goals and mission priorities. The Department of Commerce is obligated to carefully steward grant awards to ensure taxpayer dollars are used in ways that benefit the American people and improve their quality of life in an efficient manner. Commerce is responsible for ensuring that its limited resources are appropriately allocated. Commerce policy is that grant dollars should support institutions that foster safe, equal, and healthy working and learning conditions conducive to high-quality research and free inquiry. This includes protecting the safety and rights of Jewish students, among others. Commerce policy is also that grant dollars should only support institutions that comply with these principles. Supporting research in an environment that has a lack of concern for the safety and wellbeing of students is plainly inconsistent with Commerce’s priorities and *raison d’etre* of funding and championing the very best American research and educational institutions. After careful review of this award, the Department has

determined that your project does not satisfy this criteria and is inconsistent with program goals or agency priorities because your university is insufficiently protecting the safety and rights of Jewish students, among others.<sup>1</sup> In addition, as part of this careful review, the Department has determined that this specific award is inefficient from a cost perspective when balanced against programmatic goals.

To this end, NIST Award Number 70NANB24H116 is terminated effective May 12, 2025. Should you or other employees of your institution decide to continue project activities beyond May 12, 2025, you, your employees and your institution do so at your own risk and will not be reimbursed for any project costs incurred after that date. You will be notified in writing concerning close-out instructions for this award.

**Administrative Appeal (If Applicable)**

If applicable, you may object and provide information and documentation challenging this termination.

You must submit a request for such review to Secretary Howard Lutnick no later than 30 days after this letter is received, except that if you show good cause why an extension of time should be granted, Secretary Lutnick may grant an extension of time.

The request for review must include a copy of this decision, must identify the issue(s) in dispute, and must contain a full statement of your position with respect to such issue(s) and the pertinent facts and reasons in support of your position. In addition to the required written statement, you shall provide copies of any documents supporting your claim.

Sincerely,



Craig S. Burkhardt  
Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Standards and Technology  
Deputy Director and Acting Director of the  
National Institute of Standards and Technology

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/FINAL-Harvard-ASAIB-Report-4.29.25.pdf>